

International Association for Landscape Ecology - North America (IALE - North America)

Executive Summary of Bylaws

*revised in entirety to reflect change from US-IALE to IALE-North America
and associated governance updates*

Since its inception in 1986, US-IALE has included members primarily from the United States. In April 2018, the membership of US-IALE voted to expand the geographic scope of our Regional Chapter to include all nations in North America, and change our association's name to IALE – North America to reflect this broader scope. This bylaw revision seeks to broaden membership to all of North America in an effort to reach underrepresented scientists, practitioners and students across the entire continent and to ultimately increase member diversity and knowledge exchange.

Over the past year, the Executive Committee has worked to update our bylaws with the following goals in mind: equity among members from all countries in North America, inclusion of members from all backgrounds at the annual meeting and within the Regional Chapter, and diverse representation in elected positions. In the process of revising our current bylaws, we also made changes to ensure compliance with existing non-profit bylaws in the state where US-IALE was originally chartered, Pennsylvania.

The new bylaws consist of 13 Articles. **Our association's Name (Article 1) is changed to "International Association of Landscape Ecology - North America", abbreviated "IALE-North America". Our Mission and Purpose statement (Article 2) expands our scope from the "United States" to "North America" and adds "Promote diversity and inclusion and champion participation in landscape ecology among people of all races, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, and veteran status" as one of our purposes.** The section on Membership (**Article 4**) has been expanded to include explicit sections on Member Powers, Member Liability to Third Parties, Resignation, and Termination, Expulsion, or Suspension.

With the change in geographic scope comes changes to the Executive Committee (**Article 5: Governance and Article 7: Duties and Terms of the Executive Committee**). To the current slate of the Executive Committee (President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, three Councilors-at-Large, and two Student Representatives), we have **added an additional Councilor-at-Large**. We have also added specific language regarding the country of origin for the four Councilors-at-Large (**Article 7, Section 6**) and for the two Student Representatives (**Article 7, Section 7**). Unrelated to the change in scope, we have **added a new position, that of Outgoing Treasurer (Article 7, Section 5)** who will overlap with a newly elected Treasurer for the first year of the new Treasurer's term. Article 7 includes language pursuant to the duties of each of the Executive Committee members, fiduciary duties of the Executive Committee members and Officers, Conflicts of Interest, Liability, Indemnification, Resignation, and Removal. The **duties of the Secretary (Article 7, Section 3) have been expanded** to include reporting requirements for Pennsylvania, our chartering state.

Article 8, Committees details the eight standing committees: Awards, Foreign Scholar Travel Award, Meeting Site Selection, Sponsorship, Nominating, Policy, Communications, as well as **a new Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee (EID)**. The EID committee will be chaired by one of the Councilors-at-Large and will consist of 3-5 Active Members (Article 8 Section 8). **Article 9: Meetings**, provides details regarding the Annual meeting including Duties of Program Chairperson and Local Host, Meeting Code of Conduct, and Social Media. Finally, we added details to **Article 10: Finances, Article 11: Publications, Article 12: Amendments, and Article 13: Dissolution**.